A diverse range of biologically active natural products is being targeted for synthesis in our laboratories. The motivations for undertaking such work are three-fold: (i) to develop structure-activity relationship (SAR) profiles for the relevant class, (ii), to develop new synthetic methodologies and, (iii), sometimes to establish the true structure of the natural product. Of course, such pursuits can become all the more fascinating when completely unexpected processes are uncovered. In this presentation, I will provide examples of all of these possibilities.

References:
M. G. Banwell, Tetrahedron, 2008, 64, 4669